

# West Nile Virus in Avian and Mosquito Pools

**Administering Department:** Virology

**Test Contact:** Vonnita Barton 334-2235 ext 230

**Purpose of Test:**

To detect the presence of West Nile Virus in corvids and raptors and in mosquito populations.

**Method:**

RT-PCR (transcription-polymerase chain reaction) to detect the presence of viral RNA.

**Sample and Submission Guidelines:**

Avian specimens are submitted through District Health Departments and Idaho Fish and Game.

Only Corvids (jays, crows, ravens, magpies) and Raptors will be accepted for testing.

Bird must be fresh (not dead over 48 hours).

Collect oral swab using cotton or Dacron swabs, place in BSL diluent (collection kits available from laboratory). Keep cool during shipment. Specimens must be accompanied by an Idaho Dead Bird Reporting and Sample Submission Form.

Mosquitoes are collected throughout Idaho by Mosquito Abatement Districts and District Health Departments.

Citizens are encouraged to report dead birds of any type to their District Health Departments.

**Possible Results and Meaning:**

Positive: West Nile Virus nucleic acid detected; indicative of the presence of West Nile Virus

Negative : West Nile Virus nucleic acid not detected. A negative result does not rule out the presence of PCR inhibitors or WNV nucleic acid concentrations below the level of detection of the assay.

**Charge for test:** No charge

**Turn-Around-Time:** 2 days (M-F)

**Links:**

CDC West Nile Virus Web Site <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile>

Panhandle District Health Dept., Coeur d'Alene 208-415-5100

North Central District Health Dept, Lewiston 208-799-3100

Southwest District Health Dept. 208-455-5300

Central District Health Dept., Boise 208-375-5211

South Central District Health Dept., Twin Falls 208-734-5900

Southeast District Health Dept., Pocatello 208-233-9080

District Seven Health Dept., Idaho Falls 208-522-0310